Reflection 3

As a mathematics teacher I recognized the constant gaps that occurs with students entering middle school, so I was motivated to create an action research paper to address this issue. While conducting this project I found that the problem is causing a negative chain effect of in America. I found that students suffer from math anxiety as first grade and it continues on in their school life. Students need math skills to graduate from both high school and college. The gaps students have and the way in which we are teaching math is causing less students to be interested in math and science majors in college. Students who do end up majoring drop out because it becomes too challenging for them. This paper pushed me to think about the ways in which I teach my content by critical self-evaluation of my practices.

One of the biggest connections that I find between my research and the Brooklyn College mission statement is equity. Schools are social institutions so our role as educators is to provide equity through social justice. Inequality is deep rooted in American history and spread throughout the educational system. Students regardless of their race, gender, religion or economic status should have access to an equal education. Our roles as educators is to bridge the gap and break down those barriers of inequality. Helping students reach grade level proficiency in math by first identifying their weaknesses then applying strategies that appeal to different learning styles helps bridge the gap. It levels the playing field for students who need extra support with these skills to be successful in high school and enter college.

Collaboration between teachers, students and their families is also needed to ensure the success of the child. Parents need to know their child’s weaknesses and what supports will be put in place to support them. Will supports take place during the day, in class or afterschool and how can they support their child need to be communicated to parents, Parents know their children best and can truly motivate their child especially when they see them united with their teachers.

One connection I saw between all my classmates’ papers was passion. All of my fellow educators were clearly inspired by their content to create an action research project that find solutions to diverse issues. Action research truly has impacted my views on how to assist students with challenges that they have within the classroom. It has open my eyes to using research as a tool to find solutions to student’s problems within the classroom.